

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1399

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 4170

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CA

SUBJ: DOD/NAC BRIEFING OF ALLIED GOVERNMENTS AND
PARLIAMENTARIANS

REF: A) USNATO 5109; B) OSLO 5106

1. WE JOIN EMBASSY OSLO IN STRONGLY ENDORSING SECGEN
LUNS' SUGGESTION, APPROVED BY SECRETARY RUMSFELD,
(REF A, PARA 2), THAT NATO OFFICIALS VISIT ALLIED
CAPITALS TO BRIEF SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND KEY
PARLIAMENARIANS.

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2. DURING SEPTEMBER 29-30 VISIT TO OTTAWA BY NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE, THEN NATIONAL DEFENSE MINISTER RICHARDSON AND THAT DEPARTMENT'S RANKING CIVIL SERVANT (NIXON) MADE URGENT PLEA FOR NATO ASSISTANCE IN EDUCATING CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS ON CURRENT REALITIES OF SOVIET THREAT. RICHARDSON AND NIXON POINTED OUT THAT AVERAGE CANADIAN SEES COUNTRY BOUNDED ON THREE SIDES BY WATER AND ON FOURTH BY FRIENDLY AND PROTECTIVE POWER AS NOT PARTICULARLY THREATENED, AND THAT PUBLIC INDIFFERENCE TO DEFENSE IMPERATIVES IS REFLECTED IN POLITICAL PROCESS WHICH INFLUENCES FEDERAL BUDGET FORMULATION. EMBASSY WOULD ADD THAT WHILE RECENT DEFENSE REVIEW SOMEWHAT IMPROVED SITUATION, INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL STRUGGLE ON SELECTION AND FINANCING OF NEW LONG RANGE PATROL AIRCRAFT DEMONSTRATED EXTENT TO WHICH FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS CAN THREATEN TO PREVAIL OVER DEFENSE NEEDS. AS IN OSLO, NATO BRIEFING TEAM ON VISIT TO OTTAWA SHOULD MEET ALSO WITH CABINET OFFICERS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS WITH PRIMARILY FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

3. TO HAVE NATO UNDERTAKE THESE BRIEFINGS (AND NOT USG, WHICH IS CANADA'S USUAL SOURCE) WOULD PROVIDE TWO DISTINCT ADVANTAGES: (A) GOC TENDS TO DISCOUNT SOMEWHAT ON GROUNDS OF SELF-INTEREST ANY STRONG ADMONITIONS FROM USG, PARTICULARLY AS WE ARE USUALLY ENGAGED IN ASKING CANADIANS TO DO MORE FOR NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE; AND (B) NATO LINK FITS CANADA'S "THIRD OPTION AND DESIRE TO EXPAND RELATIONS WITH FRIENDLY EUROPEAN POWERS.

4. EMBASSY LOOKS FORWARD TO HEARING MORE ABOUT PLANS FOR NATO TEAM TO VISIT OTTAWA, THOUGH WE ASSUME ALL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH GOC.
ENDERS

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